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Economic and Social Council

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Economic and environmental questions: human settlements

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Luis Alfonso de Alba (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution E/2012/L.13

Human settlements

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its relevant resolutions and decisions on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[1]

Acknowledging the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) towards attaining the goal of sustainable urban development and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Recalling the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The future we want",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda;[2]

2. *Also takes note* of paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 66/207 of 22 December 2011, in which the Assembly decided to convene in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III);

3. *Further takes note* of the ongoing review of the governance structure of UN-Habitat, which aims to improve its transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness;

4. *Recognizes* the progress made in meeting and even surpassing Millennium Development Goal 7, target 11, in improving the lives of slum dwellers, but expresses concern that there has not been enough progress to counter the growth

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] E/2012/65.

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of slums in the developing world, that urban sprawl adds to the urban divide pushing social segregation in cities and suburbs, and that the overall reduction in the world's urban divide requires greater effort, since the absolute number of slum dwellers actually increased by over 50 million in ten years, and in this regard, stresses the need for Governments and development partners to redouble efforts to support plans and strategies at all levels to improve the lives of the urban poor across the developing world;

5. *Encourages* Governments to continue to support the work and existing cooperation of UN-Habitat, within its mandate and in line with its medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008-2013, on issues related to cities and climate change, including its complementary role in matters related to climate change within the United Nations system, in particular in addressing the vulnerability of cities to climate change, with a focus on vulnerable urban populations, slum dwellers, the urban poor and at-risk populations;

6. *Encourages* Governments, according to their circumstances and capacities, to promote sustainability criteria in planning, construction and management for access to clean water and safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, urban and rural services, sustainable waste management, sustainable transport and disaster risk reduction;

7. *Further encourages* Governments at all levels and all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, to promote the participation and access of people, in particular the poor, to policies, programmes and projects related to basic services including housing, in order to address the needs of rural and urban populations;

8. *Welcomes* the contributions of initiatives at all levels to mobilize investment for slum upgrading, shelter and basic services beyond current targets, and invites the international community to support such efforts;

9. *Emphasizes* that Habitat III and its preparatory process should take full advantage of planned meetings by aligning with the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and with the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, and encourages the regular regional ministerial conferences on housing and urban development and other relevant expert group meetings to support the activities of the preparatory process, taking into account that the Conference and the preparatory process should be carried out in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner;

10. *Encourages* the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders at the local, national and regional levels in preparations for Habitat III;

11. *Recommends* that the General Assembly adopt in a timely manner the modalities resolution of Habitat III, and in this regard, encourages the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations regional commissions and the functional and other relevant subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, to actively support the preparatory process of the Conference, as appropriate;

12. *Encourages* UN-Habitat to continue to work on the strategic plan for 2014-2019 in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in an open and transparent manner, setting realistic and achievable goals for the period it covers;

13. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,[3] and encourages UN-Habitat to move this process forward, in cooperation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in order to continue on its path towards the improvement of its transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness;

14. *Invites* the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund and the technical cooperation trust funds, and invites Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to adequately support the Programme in accordance with the mandate of the General Assembly;

16. *Invites* Governments to further promote sustainable cities and the role of local authorities in their national development policies and programmes and to consider the environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive and economically productive roles of cities in the post-2015 United Nations development agenda;

17. *Decides* to transmit to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-seventh session the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration at its substantive session of 2013 a report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

[3] HSP/GC/23/2/Add.1.